Mr. Fulbright's Lance

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Chairman Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee accuses this newspaper of having distorted his remarks about congressional support for the war in Vietnam out of "eagerness to please the Administration." In an editorial last week we had commended Mr. Fulbright, who has been a principal critic of Administration policy in Vietnam, for in effect warning Peking and Hanoi not to underrate the amount of backing for the President's position. We expressed the opinion that this had helped atone for the mischievous effects of some of his past remarks. But in no way did we indicate that Senator Fulbright had abandoned his own disagreement with the Administration; nor did we question his motives. Let him not cast aspersion on ours. We support the President's policy on Vietnam, not "to please the Administration," but because we deeply believe it is the right policy in the face of the Communist challenge.